

1 **ARTICLE XV**
2 **DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENTS**
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4 **SECTION 28 – 1501 AUTHORITY**
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6 The Town of Easton shall exercise the authority granted by Section 13.01 of the Land Use
7 Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to enter into development rights and
8 responsibilities agreements.
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10 **SECTION 28 – 1502 APPLICABILITY**
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12 Any person having a legal or equitable interest in real property located within the
13 boundaries of the Town may petition the Town of Easton to enter into an agreement
14 pertaining to the development of that property.
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16 **SECTION 28 – 1503 CONTENTS OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND**
17 **RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENT**
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19 A. At a minimum, a development rights and responsibilities agreement shall contain the
20 following:
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- 22 1. A legal description of the real property subject to the agreement;
- 23
- 24 2. A certification that the petitioner has either a legal or equitable interest in the
25 property;
- 26
- 27 3. The names of all parties having an equitable or legal interest in the property,
28 including lien holders;
- 29
- 30 4. The duration of the agreement, including any proposed phasing plan of the
31 development;
- 32
- 33 5. The permissible uses of the real property;
- 34
- 35 6. The density or intensity of use of the real property;
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- 37 7. The maximum height and size of structures to be located on the real property;
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- 39 8. A description of the permits required or already approved for the development
40 of the real property;
- 41
- 42 9. A statement that the proposed development is consistent with applicable
43 development regulations and the Comprehensive Plan of the Town;

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2 10. A description of the conditions, terms, restrictions or other requirements
3 determined by the Mayor and Council, or its designees, to be necessary to
4 ensure the public health, safety and welfare;
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6 11. In addition, the agreement shall include provisions for the following matters to
7 the extent that they are applicable to the proposed development project:
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9 a. Dedication of portions of the real property for public use;

10 b. Protection of sensitive areas;

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12 c. Preservation or archaeological investigation of prehistoric sites which
13 may provide information not commonly available from similar sites in
14 the County or Town; and preservation or restoration of significant
15 historical structures for which preservation or restoration, and
16 maintenance, are economically reasonable and feasible; and
17

18 d. Construction or financing of public facilities and extension or
19 improvement of necessary utilities.
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21 e. A provision requiring the developer to reimburse the Town for its
22 attorney's fees, costs and expenses incurred in the event an agreement
23 is abandoned or breached by the petitioner.
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26 B. In addition to the matters set out in Subsection A, an agreement may fix the period in
27 which and terms by which development and construction may commence and be
28 completed, as well as provide for other matters consistent with this title, including the
29 phasing of development in such a manner that public facilities and services may be
30 provided in an orderly and sequential fashion in the discretion of the Town of Easton.
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32 **SECTION 28 – 1504 REFERRAL TO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION;**
33 **COMPLIANCE WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**
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35 Upon receipt of a petition to enter into an agreement, the petition shall be referred to the
36 Planning and Zoning Commission for a determination of whether the proposed agreement
37 is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Town of Easton may not enter
38 into an agreement unless the Planning and Zoning Commission determines whether the
39 proposed agreement is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
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1 **SECTION 28 – 1505 PUBLIC HEARING; MANNER OF APPROVAL**

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- 3 A. Before an agreement may be executed by the Mayor, the Town Council shall hold a
- 4 public hearing on the proposed agreement. Notice of the hearing shall be published in
- 5 a newspaper of general circulation within the Town once each week for two
- 6 consecutive weeks, with the first such publication of notice appearing at least 14 days
- 7 prior to the hearing. The notice shall contain the name of the petitioner, a brief
- 8 description sufficient to identify the property involved, a fair summary of the contents
- 9 of the petition and the date, time and place of the public hearing. This hearing may be
- 10 combined with other required public hearings for the proposed development.
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- 12 B. If after consideration of all information produced as a result of the public hearing, the
- 13 Town Council determines that execution of an agreement is in the best interests of the
- 14 Town and furthers the purpose and intent of this Article, the Town Council shall enact
- 15 a resolution approving the agreement and authorizing the Mayor to execute and deliver
- 16 the same.
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18 **SECTION 28 – 1506 AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT**

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- 20 A. Subject to paragraph B of this subsection and after a public hearing, the parties to an
- 21 agreement may amend the agreement by mutual consent.
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- 23 B. The parties may not amend an agreement unless the Planning and Zoning Commission
- 24 determines whether the proposed amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive
- 25 Plan.
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27 **SECTION 28 – 1507 TERMINATION OF AGREEMENTS; SUSPENSION**

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- 29 A. The parties to an agreement may terminate the agreement by mutual consent.
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- 31 B. After a public hearing, the Town Council may determine that suspension or termination
- 32 is essential to ensure the public health, safety or welfare.
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34 **SECTION 28 – 1508 APPLICABLE LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES**

- 35
- 36 A. Except as provided in paragraph B of this subsection, the laws, rules, regulations and
- 37 policies governing the use, density or intensity of use or development of the real
- 38 property subject to the agreement shall be the laws, rules, regulations and policies in
- 39 force at the time that the Mayor and the petitioner execute the agreement.
- 40
- 41 B. An agreement may not prevent compliance with the laws, rules, regulations and
- 42 policies enacted after the date of the agreement, if the Town Council determines that
- 43 imposition and compliance with these laws and regulations is essential to ensure the

1 public health, safety or welfare of residents of all or part of the Town.
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3 **SECTION 28 – 1509 RECORDING AGREEMENTS IN THE LAND RECORDS**
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- 5 A. An agreement shall be void if not recorded in the Land Records of Talbot County within
6 20 days after the day on which the Mayor and the petitioner execute the agreement.
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8 B. When an agreement is recorded, the Town of Easton and the petitioner, and their
9 successors in interest, are bound to the agreement.
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11 **SECTION 28 – 1510 ENFORCEMENT BY INTERESTED PARTIES**
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13 Unless terminated under Section 28 – 1507 of this Article, the Town or the petitioner, and
14 their successors in interest, may enforce the agreement.
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